



NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

MONTREAL NEW YORK TORONTO

November 3, 1989

Mr. Miro Subrt
International Ice Hockey Federation
Bellevuestraße 8, A-1190
Vienna, Austria

Dear Miro:

Your letter did not come through to us very clearly, but I think I have a full understanding of the information that you are requesting.

First of all, I am pleased to attached a summary of the Rule Changes which were approved in the National Hockey League for the 1989-90 season. This will answer some of the questions that you raised.

With regard to other questions I will deal with them in the order that you presented them.

1. You will note from our Rule Changes that we have increased the size from ten to twelve inches.
2. We have not introduced any legislation with regard to the catching mitt of the goaltender other than what is currently in our Rule Book. Although the catcher glove seems to be oversize, we do not feel at this time that it is necessary to put in a specific measurement to control the size of the glove as the results would indicate that the goaltender does not seem to have any unfair advantage. The average number of goals now being scored in our games is approximately 7.5, which is an acceptable level to us.
3. The attached summary of Rules should provide you with this information.
4. As you are aware we do not have any specific rules that govern the goalkeeper's face mask or head gear. As you can appreciate every goalkeeper has his own requirements with regard to facial protection and we have refrained from imposing regulations with regard to this equipment. I believe that the I.I.H.F. Rules are very wise in that they make sure that the goalkeeper is fully protected, but at this point there has not been any move by any of our Clubs or goalkeepers to bring in regulations governing this equipment.
5. Our rules also state that all players must wear a hockey helmet, but we have not imposed this rule on goalkeepers inasmuch as it is the feeling of our people that the type of equipment worn by our goalkeepers serves as protection for the head as well as the face.

Miro, it is very important that all of our organizations be very concerned with the safety and protection of our players. I believe that we have made great strides in this direction over the last 10 to 20 years, but I also think it is important that we do not bring so much legislation that we may impair the ability of the player to perform. We feel that the players should participate in the institution of rules that may affect their abilities and certainly before we go any further in the way of new rules regarding protective equipment we would consult with our players.

If there is anything further that you would like to discuss in this matter I will be very happy to be at your disposal. As I stated in the beginning, some of your letter was not legible and I do hope that I have understood the sense of your questions.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,



Brian O'Neill
Executive Vice-President

BO'N:s

P.S. My wife sends her best to you and we both appreciated the hospitality that you showed us when we were in Prague.